

# Weekly National Intelligencer.

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## THE GOVERNMENT PAPER AND ITS FRIENDS.

The Augusta "Constitutionalist" takes us seriously to task in the following article, for suggesting that, considering the circumstances under which the newspaper entitled "The Union" has been established in this city, it should be understood that whatever is published in that paper concerning the affairs of Government represents the views of the Executive Department:

FROM THE GEORGIA CONSTITUTIONALIST OF MAY 15.  
We hope that the Editors of the National Intelligencer will not succeed in their attempt to impress on the minds of the people of the United States that the new paper established at Washington under the control of Mr. Ritchie is to be nothing else but the organ of the Administration, and that whatever is published in that paper is—political, financial, or national.

Department of the Government. The scheme of the Editors of the National Intelligencer is a deep-laid one, well calculated to neutralize the influence which Mr. Ritchie exercises over his political friends. If that gentleman is to be the echo of the Administration, and not the independent editor and statesman he has been for upwards of forty years, his influence is lost by becoming the puppet and mouthpiece of other men. This is what the Editors of the Intelligencer are insinuating in the most ungenerous and insidious manner. But their plan will fail with a people so enlightened as that of the United States. Who can believe that Mr. Ritchie will be but the mere echo of Mr. President Polk? Who can believe that Mr. Ritchie will sacrifice his principles, his long-cherished opinions, and his political independence, should either be brought into a conflict with the principles or opinions that he entertains by Mr. Polk? No one in the United States can believe such a thing; and yet the Editors of the National Intelligencer have the boldness to insinuate as much; much more, they insinuate that the new paper is to be supported by the patronage of the Government, and for such a support Mr. Ritchie is to be merely the mouthpiece of the President. That the "Union" will be the organ of the new Administration there is no doubt; that the organs of the new Administration will be extended to the Executive and Legislative departments of the Government will be extended to that paper, we are firmly persuaded; that, when the President will feel it incumbent on him to let the people know what course he will pursue in certain cases or political events, he will employ the columns of the "Union," we are bound to believe; but we believe at the same time that it will go no further. Mr. Ritchie will support every measure of the Administration, when it will correspond with his principles and his duty to the country; but Mr. Ritchie is not the man to support measures which will conflict with his long-cherished political doctrines. The Editors of the Intelligencer know as well as we do the character of Mr. Ritchie, and it is a slander on that character when they insinuate that hereafter they would consider as emanating from the President himself whatever appeared in the columns of the "Union." And we may tell the Intelligencer that it will give us much pleasure to find that every political principle advocated by Mr. Ritchie in the "Union" is sincerely entertained by President Polk. Mr. Ritchie has not thought proper to reply to the insinuations of the National Intelligencer; we expect him to do so; such ungenerous and insidious attacks should not pass unnoticed.

Though the "Constitutionalist" has, to justify its own virtuous indignation at the injustice which we are supposed to have done to its fellow-laborer in the field of politics, stated rather too strongly our intimations concerning the relations of the "Union" to the Executive, the reader will see by what follows that, if we had stated the case as broadly as it makes us do, we should be fully borne out by the representations made by the best friends of the government paper and of its Editor regarding its actual character and objects.

The Richmond Enquirer of Friday last contains a letter to the Editors from Washington city, in which an elaborate (and we have no doubt deserved) eulogy is passed upon the great industry of the President and the members of the Cabinet, very much in the style of an editorial article to the same effect in the "Union" of a few days earlier date. From the Executive and his Cabinet, the writer of the letter proceeds to a consideration of the merits of the government paper and the industry of its Editor, to which and his abilities high praise is given; and then follows the passage which we subjoin entire, italicizing only a few sentences to direct more particularly to them the attention of the sensitive Editor at Augusta, who has undertaken to read us a lecture on the subject of this same government paper. Considering the relation which the Editor of the "Union" has borne, and yet bears, to the Enquirer and its Editors, no one will suppose that such a letter was written here and conspicuously published at Richmond without his entire approbation of its contents.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS PAPER UPON THE PLAN SKETCHED BY THE ADMINISTRATION and its Editor is an enterprise of the serious drawbacks and energy. It at once drew away from the serious drawbacks of the Federal press (as to the views and acts of the Executive) on the one hand, and the difference in tone and feeling among the numerous conductors of Democratic papers on the other. As its editor looks daily to the Administration upon the important and interesting subjects of which he treats, the public is bound to him with confidence for the policy of the Government, and the readers of the Union are thus, as it were, enabled to have a daily, semi-weekly, or weekly interview with the Executive and his Cabinet—to learn directly from themselves what they are doing and why they do it. Mr. Polk has made a main move in thus throwing himself immediately upon public sentiment for its judgment on his administrative policy. The response of the press generally will keep him better informed of the wishes of the true sovereign in the land—public opinion—and thus enable him to guard the interests of the people of the whole Union with more effective care. This move will also exert a most beneficial influence upon the manner in which political contests between the two great parties are to be conducted in future; and it will not be without its legitimate effect in elevating the moral and intellectual condition of the masses. For the Union, which must necessarily become the constant book of reference to those who take interest in public affairs, will stamp its editor's characteristic attachment to the great principles of the Republican party upon its readers. They will learn from him to keep the mind's eye fixed with eagle gaze upon the important axioms in the theory of the American Government, which the Federalists always labor to place in the background, lest the evident conflict between their policy and these sheet anchors of constitutional liberty may show the country more clearly the necessity of preserving the main power of the nation where our wise and patriotic fathers placed it—in the people of the States. It will thus reform abuses which have by degrees crept into all contests be-

tween the two great parties. The "meum et tuum" issues between sectional leaders will be thrown aside, and our opponents forced to stand before the country upon the political principles of Alexander Hamilton and Henry Clay alone. Upon these they have never yet ventured to do fairly and manly battle without sustaining an inglorious defeat. The Union, too, must bear the immediate impress of the practical and philosophical minds of the Executive and his Cabinet, as it will be impossible for Mr. Ritchie to hold daily consultations with these gentlemen upon the subject-matter of his editorials, without naturally bringing the reasoning upon which they may base their official views and acts to his aid, in sustaining their positions. Am I not correct, therefore, in prophesying for the new Government organ an influence in behalf of our principles such as no journal in America has heretofore exercised?

**SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE ADMINISTRATION.**—In allusion to the fact that Messrs. CALHOUN, ELMORE, and PICKENS have successively declined the Embassy to England, tendered to each of them by President Polk, the Charleston Mercury, Mr. CALHOUN's particular organ, significantly says:

"It is now known that the Hon. F. W. PICKENS has declined the mission to London. We are not at all surprised, under the circumstances, to see the public men of the State avoiding the entanglement of Federal office, and are persuaded that they thus act more in accordance with the wishes of the people than by accepting office. We wish well to Mr. Polk's administration, and desire to be able to give it a hearty support; but it is much better for us that the leading politicians of the State should be free."

It seems by the following paragraph from the Houston Morning Star (of Texas) that the erection of lighthouses at Galveston and Matagorda is to be postponed until annexation takes place:

"We have been authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury to mention that he has determined not to conclude any contract for the erection of the lighthouse at Galveston, or that at Matagorda. He considers it now so certain the country will be soon annexed to the United States, that he deems it advisable to husband the limited revenue of the country to defray the expenses of the Congress and the Convention that will soon be convened; and he considers that the United States, having ample resources, will erect lighthouses at these points at an early period, far better adapted to the wants of navigators than any that could be erected with the small appropriations made by any Congress."

The "Constitution" states, from the highest authority, that the contracts for carrying the mail in New York and the New England States will be probably about two hundred thousand dollars less under the present letting than what it was carried before. This indicates a vast saving to the Government for mail service under the operations of the new law.

We are informed that the reduced price at which the new contracts have been made is occasioned by the fact that the contractors being allowed to transport the mail on horseback, or by any other means they would consider as emanating from the President himself whatever appeared in the columns of the "Union." And we may tell the Intelligencer that it will give us much pleasure to find that every political principle advocated by Mr. Ritchie in the "Union" is sincerely entertained by President Polk. Mr. Ritchie has not thought proper to reply to the insinuations of the National Intelligencer; we expect him to do so; such ungenerous and insidious attacks should not pass unnoticed.

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## LATER FROM TEXAS.

The steamship *New York* arrived at New Orleans on the 10th instant from Galveston, whence she sailed on the 8th.

Among her passengers were Major DONELSON, U. S. Charge, and Gov. YELL, of Arkansas. Mr. WICKLIFFE, the ex-Postmaster General, was at Galveston on the 7th instant.

The Picayune says that there is no limit to the enthusiasm of the people of Texas in regard to Annexation. The only trouble with them appears to be whether to meet in Convention and form a Constitution for "the State of Texas" prior or subsequent to the meeting of Congress. This is a fertile theme for the Texas editors.

The Morning Star of the 3d instant, published at Houston, says that it has the most positive evidence that the President and a majority of the members of his Cabinet are anxious to act in the utmost harmony with the people, and will cordially co-operate with them in their efforts to consummate this great measure at the earliest practicable period.

FROM HAVRE.—Port Republican papers of the 23d ultimo state that ex-President HENRY, after hovering about the coast for some days and making several attempts to land, succeeded at last in getting on shore at a small village called "Grand-Gosier," near Jaemel. His idea was that the people of Jaemel and of the neighboring country would flock to his standard; but forces were marching against him, and it was the opinion that he would be captured if he did not save himself by a timely flight.

**THE GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION.**  
This body, sitting in Augusta, Georgia, held its second day's session on Friday week, a report of which we have in the Augusta Chronicle of Saturday week:

Dr. FULLER's report was taken up again, and after some verbal changes, was read; and, after debate, was unanimously adopted, as follows:

"The committee to whom it has been referred to report a preamble and resolutions, cannot but express their profound sense of the responsibility resting upon your body at the present eventful crisis, the integrity of the nation, the interests of truth, the sacred enterprise of converting the heathen, are all involved in your deliberations. That this Convention was imperiously demanded must be apparent to all. The Boston Board have, in their answer to the Alabama resolutions, most clearly and necessarily exceeded their power and violated their trust. It is a question admitting no debate, that the Triennial Convention was formed on the principle of perfect equality of members from the South and North.

"And, what is all-important, the very qualifications of missionaries are prescribed by the original Constitution of that Convention—the fifth article providing that 'such persons as are in full communion with some regular church of our denomination, and who furnish satisfactory evidence of genuine piety, good talents, and fervent zeal for the Redeemer's cause, are to be employed as missionaries.'

"Besides this, too, the declaration of the Board, that 'if any one should offer himself as a missionary, having slaves, and should insist on retaining them as his property, we would not appoint him,' is an innovation and a departure from the course hitherto pursued by the Triennial Convention, such persons having been appointed; and, lastly, the decision of the Board is an infraction of the resolution passed the last spring at Philadelphia, and the General Board, at their late meeting in Providence, has failed to reverse the decision."

The debate pending the consideration of the report was quite animated. Rev. Mr. Jeter, of this city, took a prominent part in favor of the report. He said that he had been a conservative; so much so, indeed, as to be considered by some of his friends as leaning to the North. He was now in favor of a separate organization, and the more he reflected upon the subject, the difficulties which at first presented themselves to his mind vanished, and he believed the cause of God would be promoted thereby.

In the course of his remarks Mr. J. read the following extract from a letter of Dr. Wayland to himself. Dr. Wayland says:

"You will separate, of course. I could not ask otherwise. Your rights have been infringed. I will take the liberty of offering one or two suggestions. We have shown how Christ has not failed to act; it remains for you to show us how they ought to act. Put away all violence, act with dignity and firmness, and the world will approve your course."

Various gentlemen spoke on the subject. Mr. Fuller explained the effect of the division. It did not divide the Baptist Church; that could not be separated; it was independent and republican, having no general head, and only associated for a general purpose. It was this association which was proposed to be severed.

The work of the day was the formation of a Constitution for a new Society, and the organization of its co-operating or executive Boards. The Constitution was discussed at great length, but was at last carried without opposition. The new body is to be termed the "Southern Baptist Convention for the Propagation of the Bible," &c., a title agreed upon, not as unexceptionable, but as the best that could be adopted under all the circumstances of the case. Dr. Johnson, of South Carolina, is President; ex-Governor Lumpkin, of Georgia, Dr. Fuller, of South Carolina, and others, Vice Presidents. This body is to meet every three years. The first meeting shall be in Nashville, Tennessee, May, 1846. The Boards are to be two in number, for independent purposes—one charged with the Foreign Missionary Department; the other with the Home Missions. The Foreign Board is located in Richmond, Virginia. Rev. J. B. Jeter, of that State, is its President; Fuller, of South Carolina, is Vice President; and Mallory, of Georgia, Recording Secretary. The Home Board is placed at Marion, Alabama. Dr. Manly, of that State, is President; Hon. J. Bolton O'Neal, is Vice President; Professor Reynolds, Recording Secretary.

An Indian Board did not succeed, in consequence of some deficiency of information on the subject. Mr. McCoy, of Georgia, was its able champion.

Professor Mott, of Mercer Institute, in Georgia, ably advocated a Southern Board of Publication, but this matter seemed premature, and the Convention laid it on the table.

A riot occurred on the 9th and 10th instant among the laborers on the Morris Canal, in the vicinity of Dover, which was terminated by the arrest of several persons charged with being its instigators. The company into whose hands the canal has recently passed contracted early in the season with certain persons to repair and enlarge it. The contractors, it appears, under-let the work in sections to sub-contractors, who employed some two thousand hands on the whole line. These latter failing to meet their payments promptly was the origin of the difficulty.

The Newark Advertiser says that in consequence of the delay caused by these riotous proceedings, the opening of the canal will be necessarily deferred some days beyond the appointed time, probably to the middle of June.

**EMIGRATION TO TENNESSEE.**—We learn from the Nashville Banner that an enterprise is on foot for establishing a colony of Dutch emigrants in Morgan county, Tennessee. About two hundred thousand acres of land have been purchased, and two or three hundred emigrants are daily expected to arrive. Others will follow from time to time as fast as preparations can be made for their reception. Manufactures and agriculture will engage the attention of the colony. For the former there is water-power in the greatest abundance. The agricultural operations will have reference chiefly to the cultivation of the vine and fruit trees generally. Special attention will be given to the raising of sheep and the growth of wool. In view of the late mentioned object, the company have already sent over a few of the finest Electoral Saxony rams, whose original cost was \$500 apiece. They have also recently purchased from Dr. John Shelby his valuable flocks of Bakewell and Southdowns. The Banner adds that another company, with similar objects in view, have purchased about sixty thousand acres in Perry county, and will proceed immediately to establish a settlement there.

## LATE FROM EUROPE.

The steamship *BRITANNIA* arrived at Boston early on Monday morning, in fourteen and a half days from Liverpool, bringing papers from that place to the evening of the 3d instant.

We observe nothing of importance in the intelligence brought by this arrival. Parliament had been almost exclusively occupied with the proposed grant to the Roman Catholic College at Maynooth. This bill had caused an extraordinary excitement, both in and out of Parliament. Numerous petitions from all parts of the kingdom were presented against the proposed grant, while Protestant meetings, to discuss the question, continued to be held in London and other places. The third reading of the bill had been postponed till the 19th of May. The Liverpool Times says that all doubt of its success has been set at rest by the unexpectedly large majority by which it passed the second reading, (147;) "and although its zealous opponents have shown fight in the House of Commons by another debate, and another division on the bringing up of the report, yet the last was a battle more marked by parade than earnestness, and the foreground was occupied by a number of small men who must say something to justify their incoherence." The same will take place on the third reading.

In the House of Commons, on the evening of the 23d ultimo, an able debate took place on the subject of the Maynooth grant, in the course of which Mr. T. B. MACAULAY made a very powerful speech, mainly upon the religious rights involved and the historical aspect of the question. While he approved of the measure, he assailed Sir Robert Peel with great bitterness for the motives which had induced him to bring it forward. He said:

"We accept those propositions with pleasure and satisfaction; but when we seek for an explanation as to the motives by which the honorable baronet has been impelled in bringing forward, we are answered that those reasons and motives are to be sought for in the motley meetings of the year 1843, and in the state of our relations with the United States of America. It is not, therefore, to any sentiments of humanity or justice or fair dealing towards Ireland, that we are to attribute the concessions made by the present Government. Those motives may have been as strong and as unscrupulous as they have heretofore been. The concessions which the Government has made are—we owe the admission to the right honorable gentleman's candor (a laugh)—to be ascribed to the fact that Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Peel have made the Ministry uneasy. [A laugh, and hear, hear.] I heard the avowal with sorrow. I listened to the right honorable baronet's declaration of his motives with indignation. Hitherto I had entertained an opinion that Mr. O'Connell's conduct in 1843 was exceedingly culpable. Mr. Peel likewise was disposed to censure those honorable members who purposely absented themselves from their duties here, and who remained in Ireland to assist in the efforts at agitation. But what can I now say, having heard the right honorable gentleman's declaration, except that I doubt very much whether the proper place for Irish members is not Conciliation Hall. [Loud cheers and laughter.] What, let me ask you, is to be the end of a system of policy which yields nothing to reason and humanity, and which grants every thing to agitation and threats? [Hear, hear.] Where will you, the Government, stop short, if you are found thus constantly paltering with agitation?"

He said that he foresaw that this concession would induce a renewal of the agitation which had secured it; and other speakers having followed up the attack, Sir ROBERT PEEL replied. After denying very explicitly that the agitation of O'Connell had in any sense extorted this Maynooth grant, Sir Robert thus alluded to his former remarks on its connection with the Oregon dispute:

"But it seems that a fear of America has some concern in the course pursued by the Government. If I used an equivocal expression with respect to this part of the subject, do the facts prove that the inference drawn from it is a correct one? Have we altered the character of the measure in the slightest degree in consequence of the message of the new President of the United States? Has not my right honorable friend stated that the outline of the measure was agreed on as early as November last, and that it continued the same when the last message was received which anticipated a favorable conclusion to the negotiations regarding the Oregon? It was under those impressions that the measure was proposed. The speech of the present President did not have any such effect as has been ascribed to it. It did not add one shilling to the amount of the vote, nor cause us to put the measure in any form more likely to render it acceptable to the people of Ireland. But, six weeks before this time, this measure was received in Ireland, was it not natural for me to say—having been obliged to use the language I did as regards the United States on the motion of the noble lord—was it not natural that I should rejoice that discontent in Ireland had subsided, and that this measure might be regarded as one cause of it? [Hear, hear.] Where will you, the Government, stop short, if you are found thus constantly paltering with agitation? [Hear, hear.] This measure, I repeat, has not been extorted by agitation. We showed a readiness to contend with that agitation by such measures as we could; and as to any threat or menace of the United States, it had no more influence on our conduct than any cause the most remote could have had." [Hear, hear.]

**JULIE, Countess de Sarville,** widow of Joseph Bonaparte, and formerly Queen of Spain, died at Florence, on the 7th ultimo, of a fit of apoplexy. She had long been in a state of ill health. She was much beloved in that city, and highly esteemed by the poor, to whom she was very charitable.

A meeting was held in Exeter Hall on the 30th ultimo to hear from Dr. WOLFE an account of his mission to Bokhara. The report in the Times says that Dr. Wolfe gave a narrative of his mission, which occupied two hours and a half in delivery. The reverend Dr. accented not only Col. Stodart and Capt. Connolly, but six other British officers and an Italian nobleman had been put to death by the King of Bokhara's orders. He stated that every facility had been afforded to him by the Majesty's representatives in the various countries through which he travelled, but he attributed his release chiefly through the influence of the King of Persia, who threatened the Ameer of Bokhara with hostilities unless Dr. Wolfe, an innocent traveller, was immediately liberated.

A sad accident occurred on the Ashdon branch of the Sheffield and Manchester railway on the 19th. Nine of the great arches fell in, and buried a number of persons in the mines. From eighteen to twenty persons were killed. The arches formed the viaduct over the river Thames, and the span of each was thirty feet.

A woman was found in a room in Glasgow, sitting in a corner nearly lifeless, with the door locked. She had been there twenty-four days, having, in consequence of a difference with some of her family, locked herself up with the view of starving herself to death. When found she was nearly emaciated. It is the opinion of a medical gentleman who visited her that she must have passed through a course of fever, otherwise she could not have existed so long.

**DREADFUL CATASTROPHE AT YARMOUTH.**—Norwich, Friday evening, eight o'clock.—The most awful excitement pervades this city. A most dreadful accident has occurred at Yarmouth. Mr. Nelson, the clown, belonging to Mr. Cook's Circus, now at Yarmouth, announced the performance of a feat which he had performed in the North River. The suspension bridge crosses this river, and about 518 people were on the bridge, when, horrible to relate, between five and six o'clock the bridge fell in. It is reported that 100 to 150 persons perished. The utmost consternation exists here; special trains have started, the telegraph is busy by hundreds, anxious to obtain news of relatives and friends. The report is that already fifty-three persons have been picked out dead. It is thought many more are still in the river.

[London Evening Sun, of May 3d.]

**DEATH IN ENGLAND.**—The venerable Earl of Stamford, George Harry Grey, expired at Enville Hall, Staffordshire, on the 26th ultimo, in his 80th year. Lieut. General R. N. Hopkins, one of the oldest field officers in the army,

died on the 26th ultimo, in London, at the advanced age of 88 years. The Hon. Lady Sinclair, daughter of the first Lord Macdonald, died at Edinburgh on the 21st ultimo, aged 70. Duncan, the young and promising artist, died in the same city at the early age of 39. On the 20th ultimo, the eminent artist Thomas Phillips, died at his residence, Hanover Square, London, in his 75th year. Colonel Sir George Charles Haste, C. B., died on the 21st ultimo, at Woolwich, in his 59th year. Recently, in the county of Waterford, Mrs. Steeney, in her 129th year. She was born in the second year of the reign of George the First. On the 23d ult., at Cork, Colonel John Townsend, of the 14th Light Dragoons, aide-de-camp to the Queen. He served in that regiment forty years, was engaged in numerous actions, including his chief services in the attack on New Orleans on the 8th January, 1815.

**IRELAND.**  
The intelligence from Ireland is of but little consequence. The regular meetings of the Repeal Association were held at Conciliation Hall, Dublin, on the 21st and 22nd ultimo, and both were addressed by Mr. O'Connell. He eulogized the Irish Banking Act of Mr. Peel, complimented the Ministers generally, and abused the dissenters. In his speech on the 22nd, after stating that Repeal should be shouted in the ears of His Majesty, he moved the following:

*Resolved, That the committee of the Loyal National Repeal Association be instructed to consider what will be the most appropriate manner of receiving the Queen, in case her Majesty should visit Ireland, taking care that while the greatest respect is paid to our Sovereign, she may not be allowed to remain in ignorance of the intention of the Irish people to persevere under all circumstances in their demand for the legislative independence of Ireland.*

**FRANCE.**  
From France, the news, though not very important, is still interesting. The Paris journals generally were filled with the close of the last month with comments on the Maynooth question in England. Nearly all of them heartily approved the measure. Mr. Guizot had been seriously ill, and his health at the latest date had not been fully restored, though he had transacted business with the King. An ordinance of the King announces that M. Guizot had obtained leave of absence for one month, to enable him to take the repose necessary for the re-establishment of his health. Count Duchatel would replace him *ad interim* in the direction of the Foreign Department.

He left Paris on the 30th for Pau. The belief was very general that he could not receive office.

A proposition for the suppression of duelling, in the French Chamber of Deputies, has been rejected. In the debate upon it the Minister of Justice contended that the Legislature was not silent on the subject; that, in the eyes of the law, duelling was an offence and a crime, liable to prosecution and punishment; and he demonstrated by the following statistics that the existing legal provisions sufficed for its efficient repression:

"I have sought," he said, "as much as possible, to collect positive and precise statistics, to ascertain what had been a period when it was supposed that the code contained no article against duelling, the number of duels which had proved fatal to one or other of the combatants: I omit speaking of those to which occasional wounds. In 1827 that number was 19; in 1828, 29; in 1829, 13; in 1830, 20; in 1831, 25; in 1832, 28; in 1833, 32; in 1834, 23, &c. The new jurisprudence of the Court of Cassation was first applied in 1837, and from that period we find the following decreasing progression: In 1839, 6 duels attended with death; in 1840, 3; in 1841, 6; in 1842, 7; in 1843, 6."

After a speech of the Marquis de Langle, in vindication of duelling, which was from beginning to end a provocation to M. Ledru Rollin, and an able disquisition of M. Dupin on the existing legislation, the Chamber refused to take the proposition into consideration.

The *Courier du Havre* mentions that the French Government intended to seize on the Soolo Islands, situated between Borneo and Mindanao, and to form in them an establishment similar to that of the Marquises and Tahiti.

**SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.**  
SPAIN.—Our accounts from Madrid are of the 24th ultimo. The Madrid Gazette contains a royal decree granting an amnesty to all individuals implicated in the revolt of Alcant and Carthage in January and February, 1844, and to those engaged in the rebellion at Vigo on the 23d of October, 1843, with the exception only of the chiefs.

The Cortes have been chiefly occupied in voting the supplies. All the advice received from the provinces of Spain were satisfactory.

**PORTUGAL.** The Queen dissolved the Cortes in person on Sunday, the 20th April. Senor Costa Cabral took part in the ceremony, which was unusually splendid.

## SWITZERLAND.

The affairs of Switzerland continue in a doubtful state. The check received by the Diet before Lucerne has not discouraged the Radicals, who will not renounce their design of destroying the federal compact of 1815. Bern, Vaud, Solothurn, Argau, and Bale-cantons, entertain the project of separating themselves from the Confederation, and constituting a Helvetic Republic, one and independent. The Lucerne conquerors, far from showing a desire for pacification, evinced motives by imitating Liberal violence; while the menaces of foreign Powers increase the exasperation of both parties. Letters from Zurich state that the Diet was closed on the 22d ultimo. Most of the foreign Ministers had left for Bern, but the French Ambassador and the Sardinian Minister had remained at Lucerne. The Diet had given full power to the Vorort to disband partly, or entirely, the troops now in the federal service; or, if necessary, to replace them by others; and in case public peace should be seriously menaced by illegal acts, to devise such measures as it might deem expedient for the maintenance of order and tranquillity, either by disbanding the federal forces now under arms, or calling out others.

A letter from Bern states that the storm which threatened the Government of that canton was dissipated for the present. The authorities had exerted themselves to produce that result. They promised to proclaim an extensive amnesty at the next meeting of the Grand Council for all those who had joined the late conspiracy at Lucerne. Military precautions were likewise taken against any popular disturbances.

Another letter from Bern states that a popular assembly, hostile to the Government, was to have been held in that city on the 28th ultimo, and it was considered highly probable that it would be followed by a revolution similar to that of Vaud. The inhabitants had resolved to arm themselves with a national guard for the protection of their persons and property. On the 26th ultimo, the Grand Council of the Canton of Lucerne, by an unanimous vote, ratified the treaty lately for the ransom of the prisoners. The indemnity to be paid for their release is stipulated at 350,000*fr.*, of which Bern is to pay 70,000*fr.*, Solothurn 20,000*fr.*, Bale Cantons 35,000*fr.*, Argau 20,000*fr.*, and the other cantons 25,000*fr.* The contracting parties expect that the Diet will pay 130,000*fr.*; by that Lucerne will receive in all 500,000*fr.* In return, Lucerne promises a full and complete amnesty.

## PRUSSIA.

A letter from Berlin of the 22d ultimo, published in the Weser Gazette, says: "Although there appears little chance of a conclusion of a treaty of commerce between the United States and the Governments of the German Customs Union, yet the latter do not relax in their efforts to establish commercial relations with the American States. Negotiations have been opened for bringing about a treaty of commerce between the Republic of Venezuela and the Zoll-Veren."

## RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg.—Accounts from this city indicate that the commerce of the Russian empire, in the Baltic—since the late events in China, and the influence obtained by the English and the Chinese treaties with America and France—has experienced such material changes that important measures are contemplated, which will greatly modify the present state of things and the system of isolation.

The WAR IN CIRCASSIA.—Russia is determined to make a more serious effort this year in Circassia. Last year 150,000 men were embodied for the Circassian war. It is said that the seventh man of every thousand, capable of bearing arms in the Russian empire, is to be enlisted, in order to swell the army to 180,000 men. One hundred transports are to be collected in the Black Sea, for the transport of troops and stores, and the command of the whole force is to be given to Woronzoff, the Governor of the Crimea.

## INDIA, &c.

From India despatches to the 8th of March were received on the 21st ultimo in London. There was, however, no news. No movement had taken place in the Punjab; the Scinde campaign was at an end; and the war in the Mahratta country was closed. The latest news from China was to the 14th of January.

A letter in the Times from Constantinople dated April 2, states that a rebellion has again broken forth in Albania. A force of 3,000 men had attacked the town of Yendi and burnt the church. The Turkish strength has been considerably weakened, and it is believed they will suffer reverses from the Albanians. There is also very general discontent among the people. Precautionary measures have been taken by the Porte and communicated to the British Minister.

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